

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 1, wherein said locker slot, having a rectangular shaped, has an even width longitudinally extended along said head portion of said guiding member, wherein said longitudinal length of said locker slot is defined at a longitudinal edge thereof and said transverse width of said locker slot is defined at a transverse edge thereof.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 4, wherein said locker slot, having a rectangular shaped, has an even width longitudinally extended along said head portion of said guiding member, wherein said longitudinal length of said locker slot is defined at a longitudinal edge thereof and said transverse width of said locker slot is defined at a transverse edge thereof.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 15, wherein said tail end of said guiding member has a tapered shape having a width substantially smaller than said transverse width of said locker slot such that said tapered tail portion of said guiding member is guided to slide through said locker slot when said tail end of said guiding member is inserted therethrough.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 16, wherein said tail end of said guiding member has a tapered shape having a width substantially smaller than said transverse width of said locker slot such that said tapered tail portion of said guiding member is guided to slide through said locker slot when said tail end of said guiding member is inserted therethrough.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 15, wherein each of said locking teeth is formed by an elongated slit inclinedly cut on said tail portion of said guiding member from said longitudinal edge thereof, wherein each of said locking teeth has a guiding edge having an outer end formed at said longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member and an inner end inclinedly and inwardly extended on said guiding member towards said tail end thereof to define said holding neck portion on said guiding member at said inner end of said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 18, wherein each of said locking teeth is formed by an elongated slit inclinedly cut on said tail portion of said guiding member from said longitudinal edge thereof, wherein each of said locking teeth has a guiding edge having an outer end formed at said longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member and an inner end inclinedly and inwardly extended on said guiding member towards said tail end thereof to define said holding neck portion on said guiding member at said inner end of said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 19, wherein said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth is extended inclinedly at a direction corresponding to an inserting direction of said tail portion of said guiding member such that said locking teeth are allowed to slide through said locker slot at said inserting direction while said locking teeth are blocked up at said transverse width at an ejecting direction which is opposed to said inserting direction.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 20, wherein said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth is extended inclinedly at a direction corresponding to an inserting direction of said tail portion of said guiding member such that said locking teeth are allowed to slide through said locker slot at said inserting direction while said locking teeth are blocked up at said transverse width at an ejecting direction which is opposed to said inserting direction.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 1, wherein said locker slot has a longitudinal engaging portion having a width larger than said thickness of said guiding member and a longitudinal locking portion said integrally extended from said engaging portion towards said head end of said guiding member, wherein said locking portion has a width gradually increasing from said engaging portion in such a manner that when said respective locking tooth said is locked at said locker slot said after said tail portion of said guiding member is guided to slide through said locker slot via said engaging portion thereof, said holding neck portion of said respective locking tooth is retained at said locking portion of said locker slot.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 4, wherein said locker slot has a longitudinal engaging portion having a width larger than said thickness of said

guiding member and a longitudinal locking portion said integrally extended from said engaging portion towards said head end of said guiding member, wherein said locking portion has a width gradually increasing from said engaging portion in such a manner that when said respective locking tooth said is locked at said locker slot said after said tail portion of said guiding member is guided to slide through said locker slot via said engaging portion thereof, said holding neck portion of said respective locking tooth is retained at said locking portion of said locker slot.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 4, wherein said locking teeth, having even thickness, are parallelly extending to said longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member to form as a comb shape so as to define said holding neck portion on said guiding member at said root portion of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method, as recited in claim 24, wherein said locking teeth, having even thickness, are parallelly extending to said longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member to form as a comb shape so as to define said holding neck portion on said guiding member at said root portion of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method for guiding a growing plant via a supporter, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a guiding member having a length substantially long enough to bind around said growing plant with said supporter, wherein said guiding member has a head portion defining at a head end, a tail portion defining at a tail end, and ~~a plurality of locking teeth spacedly formed along a longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member~~ a plurality of elongated slits spacedly and inclinedly cut along two longitudinal edges of said tail portion of said binding member to form a plurality of locking teeth respectively and to define said holding neck portion on said binding member at a root portion of each of said locking teeth;

(b) twisting said tail portion of said guiding member to substantially align with an adjacent edge of a locker slot, having a triangular shape, formed at said head portion of said guiding member, wherein said adjacent edge of said locker slot is substantially larger than a width of said guiding member, wherein said locker slot has a width gradually increasing towards said head end of said guiding member;

(c) slidably inserting said tail portion of said guiding member through said locker slot to form a binding loop around said growing plant with said supporter, wherein said tail portion of said guiding member is slid along said adjacent edge of said locker slot to adjust a loop diameter of said binding loop corresponding to a distance between said growing plant and said supporter; and

(d) twisting said tail portion of said guiding member back to its original orientation such that a holding neck portion of said corresponding locking tooth is locked at said locker slot by a transverse width thereof so as to retain said loop diameter of said binding loop to fittingly bind said growing plant with said supporter, wherein said transverse width of said locker slot is larger than a thickness of said guiding member and is larger than a width of said holding neck portion of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

(e) when said growing plant grows to increase a diameter thereof to a grown diameter, releasing said guiding member from said growing plant by twisting said tail portion of said guiding member to align with said adjacent edge of said locker slot to unlock said respective locking tooth with said locker slot such that said tail portion of said guiding member is allowed to slidably eject from said locker slot;

(f) slidably releasing said tail portion of said guiding member along said adjacent edge of said locker slot such that said binding loop of said guiding member is adjusted for fitting said grown diameter of said growing plant with respect to said supporter; and

(g) twisting said tail portion of said guiding member back to its original orientation such that said locking neck portion of said adjacent locking tooth is locked at said locker slot so as to retain said loop diameter of said binding loop to fittingly re-bind said guiding member around said growing plant with said supporter.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 27, wherein a height of said locker slot at least equals to said width of said guiding member.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 28, wherein a height of said locker slot at least equals to said width of said guiding member.

Claims 31-34 (canceled).

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 27, wherein each of said locking teeth has a guiding edge having an outer end formed at said longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member and an inner end inclinedly and inwardly extended on said guiding member towards said tail end thereof to define said holding neck portion on said guiding member at said inner end of said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method, as recited in claim ~~29~~28, wherein each of said locking teeth has a guiding edge having an outer end formed at said longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member and an inner end inclinedly and inwardly extended on said guiding member towards said tail end thereof to define said holding neck portion on said guiding member at said inner end of said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method, as recited in claim ~~32~~29, wherein each of said locking teeth has a guiding edge having an outer end formed at said longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member and an inner end inclinedly and inwardly extended on said guiding member towards said tail end thereof to define said holding neck portion on said guiding member at said inner end of said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method, as recited in claim ~~34~~30, wherein each of said locking teeth has a guiding edge having an outer end formed at said longitudinal edge of said tail portion of said guiding member and an inner end inclinedly and inwardly extended on said guiding member towards said tail end thereof to define said holding neck portion on said guiding member at said inner end of said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 35, wherein said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth is extended inclinedly at a direction corresponding to an inserting direction of said tail portion of said guiding member such

that said locking teeth are allowed to slide through said locker slot at said inserting direction while said locking teeth are blocked up at said transverse width at an ejecting direction which is opposed to said inserting direction.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 36, wherein said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth is extended inclinedly at a direction corresponding to an inserting direction of said tail portion of said guiding member such that said locking teeth are allowed to slide through said locker slot at said inserting direction while said locking teeth are blocked up at said transverse width at an ejecting direction which is opposed to said inserting direction.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 37, wherein said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth is extended inclinedly at a direction corresponding to an inserting direction of said tail portion of said guiding member such that said locking teeth are allowed to slide through said locker slot at said inserting direction while said locking teeth are blocked up at said transverse width at an ejecting direction which is opposed to said inserting direction.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 38, wherein said guiding edge of each of said locking teeth is extended inclinedly at a direction corresponding to an inserting direction of said tail portion of said guiding member such that said locking teeth are allowed to slide through said locker slot at said inserting direction while said locking teeth are blocked up at said transverse width at an ejecting direction which is opposed to said inserting direction.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The method, as recited in claim ~~27~~39, wherein said tail end of said guiding member has a tapered shape having a width substantially smaller than said transverse width of said locker slot such that said tapered tail portion of said guiding member is guided to slide through said locker slot when said tail end of said guiding member is inserted therethrough.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method, as recited in claim ~~34~~40, wherein said tail end of said guiding member has a tapered shape having a width substantially smaller than said transverse width of said locker slot such that said tapered tail portion of said guiding member is guided to slide through said locker slot when said tail end of said guiding member is inserted therethrough.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The method, as recited in claim ~~38~~ 41, wherein said tail end of said guiding member has a tapered shape having a width substantially smaller than said transverse width of said locker slot such that said tapered tail portion of said guiding member is guided to slide through said locker slot when said tail end of said guiding member is inserted therethrough.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method, as recited in claim 42, wherein said tail end of said guiding member has a tapered shape having a width substantially smaller than said transverse width of said locker slot such that said tapered tail portion of said guiding member is guided to slide through said locker slot when said tail end of said guiding member is inserted therethrough.